

A decorative graphic featuring three blue circles of varying sizes, each composed of concentric rings. These circles are connected by thin blue lines that form a triangular shape. The circles are positioned in the upper right, center, and bottom right areas of the page.

Trends in Community-Wide Measures of Youth Emotional Well-being in the Greater Prince William Area

July 2014

Introduction

In 2013, the Prince William Health District (PWHD) produced the Greater Prince William Area (GPWA) Community Health Assessment (CHA), which presented the first comprehensive picture of public health in Manassas, Manassas Park, and Prince William County. The assessment compiled results from a Health Check survey of GPWA residents; input from community partners and stakeholders; and data from local, state and national sources. Following the release of the assessment, further input was sought from community partners and the public to prioritize the health issues identified in the assessment. Mental health and obesity were selected as the priority public health issues for the GPWA.

Two partnerships were assembled to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) addressing mental health and obesity. After subsequent partner meetings and the consideration of existing resources and gaps, the two priority areas were narrowed to address the younger population through preventative approaches. The goal of the Healthy Beginnings Partnership, the group addressing obesity, is to prevent childhood obesity in the GPWA through the promotion of breastfeeding. The goal of the Youth Emotional Well-being Partnership, the group addressing mental health, is to improve the emotional well-being of youth (0-18 years) in the GPWA by helping youth develop skills and capacities that enable them to understand and navigate their world in healthy positive ways through targeted educational and assessment efforts. The finalized CHIP outlines the strategies, objectives, and action steps corresponding to each component. The CHA and CHIP documents can be found online at www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/PrinceWilliam/communityreports.htm.

During the development of the CHIP, the members of the Youth Emotional Well-being Partnership formed three workgroups with distinct strategies related to the overarching goal:

Workgroup Name	Strategies
Assessment	Identify, monitor, and track community-wide measures of youth emotional well-being
Education	Develop educational initiatives focused on increasing the number of youth enrolled in appropriate programs that promote their emotional well-being and develop monitoring and evaluation processes for those initiatives
Resource	Complete a gap analysis of programs and services that promote emotional well-being among youth and educate community stakeholders and potential funders regarding the need for programs and services that promote emotional well-being among youth

Initially, the assessment workgroup attempted to identify positive measures of young emotional well-being (i.e. measures that indicate a supportive environment for the development of emotional well-being). However, the workgroup quickly determined that without survey data, finding positive, valid, and reliable measures and of youth well-being would be difficult. Instead, the workgroup members agreed to identify measures that track potential outcomes related to a lack of support for youth emotional well-being. These measures were

categorized into four themes: community safety, demographics, family environment, self-esteem. Reliable sources for these data were then identified and the data trends for each measure were placed in data tables. Trends in the data were identified by the assessment workgroup and discussed with the larger Youth Emotional Well-being Partnership and the Greater Prince William Coalition of Human Services. The education and resource workgroups plan to use the this report to assist in the implementation of their strategies.


Data Collection and Reporting

The data in this trend report will be updated annually immediately after the County Health Rankings are nationally distributed. Additional measures will be considered for inclusion at this time. It will be shared electronically with the education and resource workgroups.

Data Trends

Community Safety

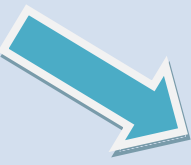
Violent crime rates have declined in all three GPWA jurisdictions since 2012.

Violent Crimes per 100,000 population				
	2012	2013	2014	
Prince William County	174	167	158	
Manassas City	485	424	398	
Manassas Park City	173	139	102	
Virginia	252	233	212	

Source: Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

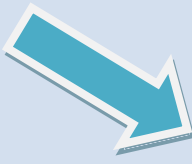
Demographics

The U.S. Census collects data about age distribution, race, and ethnicity every ten years. From 2000 to 2010, the percent of the total population under 5 years declined slightly in all GPWA jurisdictions.


Total Population Under 5 Years			
	2000	2010	
Prince William County	8.5%	8.3%	
Manassas City	8.6%	8.4%	
Manassas Park City	10.0%	9.1%	
Virginia	6.5%	6.4%	

Source: County Health Rankings

The GPWA also became increasingly racially and ethnically diverse. The Hispanic population more than doubled in all three jurisdictions. The black or African American population increased by approximately 2 percent and the Asian population also increased slightly in all three jurisdictions. There was no significant increase or decrease in the percent of American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders. The percentage of residents identifying as “some other race” increased by 4.3, 6.5, and 8.8 percent for Prince William County, Manassas City, and Manassas Park city, respectively.

White (alone or in combination with one or more other races)			
	2000	2010	
Prince William County	71.8%	62.0%	
Manassas City	74.8%	65.3%	
Manassas Park City	75.7%	60.5%	
Virginia	73.9%	71.0%	


Source: US Census

Black or African American (alone or in combination with one or more other races)			
	2000	2010	
Prince William County	20.1%	22.3%	
Manassas City	13.9%	15.7%	
Manassas Park City	12.0%	14.8%	
Virginia	20.4%	20.7%	

Source: US Census

American Indian and Alaska Native (alone or in combination with one or more other races)		
	2000	2010
Prince William County	1.0%	0.6%
Manassas City	0.8%	1.3%
Manassas Park City	0.9%	1.1%
Virginia	0.7%	1.0%


Source: US Census

Asian (alone or in combination with one or more other races)			
	2000	2010	
Prince William County	4.9%	9.3%	
Manassas City	4.0%	5.9%	
Manassas Park City	4.9%	10.5%	
Virginia	4.3%	6.5%	


Source: US Census

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (alone or in combination with one or more other races)		
	2000	2010
Prince William County	0.3%	0.3%
Manassas City	0.2%	0.3%
Manassas Park City	0.2%	0.3%
Virginia	0.1%	0.2%


Source: US Census

Some Other Race (alone or in combination with one or more other races)			
	2000	2010	
Prince William County	5.8%	10.1%	
Manassas City	9.7%	16.2%	
Manassas Park City	9.8%	18.6%	
Virginia	2.7%	3.8%	

Source: US Census

Hispanic or Latino			
	2000	2010	
Prince William County	9.7%	20.3%	
Manassas City	15.1%	31.4%	
Manassas Park City	15.0%	32.5%	
Virginia	4.7%	7.9%	

Source: US Census

Not Hispanic or Latino			
	2000	2010	
Prince William County	90.3%	79.7%	
Manassas City	84.9%	68.6%	
Manassas Park City	85.0%	67.5%	
Virginia	95.3%	92.1%	

Source: US Census

Family Environment

Adult alcohol abuse remained a public health issue in Prince William County, rising from 18% to 19% from 2013 to 2014. The rate of child abuse (founded investigations per 100 children) was stable in Prince William County and Manassas Park City from 2011 to 2013, but rose by 3 investigations per 100 children in Manassas City during the same time period.

Adult Alcohol Abuse			
	2012	2013	2014
Prince William County	18%	18%	19%
Manassas City	Not reported	7%	Not reported
Manassas Park City	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Virginia	16%	16%	16%

Source: County Health Rankings

Rate of Child Abuse <i>Founded neglect investigations per 100 children aged 0-17</i>			
	2011	2012	2013
Prince William County	5.8	5.7	5.9
Manassas City	0.7	0.7	3.7
Manassas Park City	1.3	0.7	1.0
Virginia	3.3	3.2	3.0

Source: Kids Count Data Center


The foster care population of the GPWA became increasingly racially and ethnically diverse from 2009 to 2011, with black and Hispanic youth making up a larger percentage of the foster care population. The percentage of children living in poverty was stable from 2010 to 2012. In 2012, 9.6, 17.3 and 14.2 percent of children were living in poverty in Prince William County, Manassas City, and Manassas Park City, respectively.

Children in Foster Care <i>Point-in-time counts on the last day of the year</i>			
	2010	2011	2012
Prince William County	108	109	128
Manassas City	8	10	9
Manassas Park City	3	2	1
Virginia	5,979	5,367	5,104


Source: Kids Count Data Center

White Children in Foster Care <i>Percent of the total at a point in time on the last day of the year</i>			
	2009	2010	2011
Prince William County	23.8%	27.8%	29.4%
Manassas City	36.4%	50.0%	60.0%
Manassas Park City	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Virginia	45.2%	53.7%	55.6%

Source: Kids Count Data Center

Black Children in Foster Care				
<i>Percent of the total at a point in time on the last day of the year</i>				
	2009	2010	2011	
Prince William County	48.8%	66.7%	66.1%	
Manassas City	27.3%	37.5%	40.0%	
Manassas Park City	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Virginia	38.1%	38.7%	36.1%	

Source: Kids Count Data Center

Hispanic Children in Foster Care				
<i>Percent of the total at a point in time on the last day of the year</i>				
	2009	2010	2011	
Prince William County	13.1%	22.2%	15.6%	
Manassas City	9.1%	12.5%	20.0%	
Manassas Park City	0.0%	33.3%	50.0%	
Virginia	9.6%	9.5%	9.5%	

Source: Kids Count Data Center

Children Living in Poverty				
<i>Children ages 0-17 living at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level</i>				
	2010	2011	2012	
Prince William County	8.5%	9.7%	9.6%	
Manassas City	17.9%	16.7%	17.3%	
Manassas Park City	13.6%	14.2%	14.2%	
Virginia	14.6%	15.6%	15.5%	

Source: Kids Count Data Center

According to the Virginia Department of Education, the purpose of the Virginia Comprehensive Services Act is “to provide high quality, child center, family focused, cost effective, community-based services to high-risk youth and their families.” From 2010 to 2012, the total number of children in the GPWA served under the act dropped from 746 to 711.

Between 2011 and 2014, the percentage of kindergartners below kindergarten readiness levels in the three GPWA jurisdictions was consistently higher than the percentage for the state of Virginia. In Manassas City, more than 1 in 4 kindergartners were below kindergarten readiness levels during that time period. In Manassas Park City, more than 1 in 5 were below kindergarten readiness levels for the 2013-2014 school year. According to the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) “distributes state funds to schools and community-based organizations to provide quality preschool programs for at-risk four-year olds unserved by Head Start.” From 2013 to 2014, the number of 4 year olds served by VPI in Manassas City more than doubled, from 54 to 108.

Children Served in the Comprehensive Services Act			
	2010	2011	2012
Prince William County	673	726	645
Manassas City	34	33	35
Manassas Park City	39	35	31
Greater Prince William Area (Total)	746	794	711
Virginia	17,568	16,567	15,255

Source: Kids Count Data Center

Kindergartners below Kindergarten Readiness Levels			
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Prince William County	15.2%	14.8%	15.7%
Manassas City	25.4%	33.8%	28.8%
Manassas Park City	23.2%	19.5%	21.3%
Virginia	12.5%	13.0%	12.5%

Source: Kids Count Data Center

4 year olds served by Virginia Preschool Initiative			
	2012	2013	2014
Prince William County	70	72*	72*
Manassas City	54	54	108
Manassas Park City	36	36	36
Virginia	16,618	16,390	17,378

Source: Kids Count Data Center

*Part-time participation

Self Esteem

Data from the County Health Rankings shows that in Prince William County, more than one out of five adults in Prince William County “never,” “rarely,” or “sometimes” get the social and emotional support they need.

Inadequate Social Support			
	2012	2013	2014
Prince William County	21	21	21
Virginia	18	18	18

Source: County Health Rankings

Recommendations

The assessment group recommends that stakeholders and partners with the potential to collect accurate, reproducible and reliable positive measures of emotional well-being discuss and pursue approaches to doing so on a regular basis. It also recommends that evidence-based survey data be collected regularly to assess youth’s perception of their emotional well-being. Programs that serve youth, such as afterschool programs, sports leagues, and other extracurricular activities might consider collecting data related to emotional well-being, as it could provide insight about the impact of such programs on emotional well-being. Program data could also be utilized to ensure resources are being used appropriately. Making data trends accessible to the community will help to direct and bolster community support for interventions related to youth emotional well-being.